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The Tudor Facsimile Texts

The London Prodigal

“By WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE”

Date of Earliest Known Edition 1605

[*B.M. Press-mark, C. 34, l. 3*]

Next issued in the third Shakespeare folio 1664

Reproduced in Facsimile 1910

The Tudor Facsimile Texts

Under the Supervision and Editorship of

JOHN S. FARMER

The London Prodigal

“By WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE”

1605



Issued for Subscribers by the Editor of
THE TUDOR FACSIMILE TEXTS
MCMX

The London Prodigal

“ By WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE ”

1605

This is one of the “ doubtful ” Shakespearean plays, and was first issued in 1605 with “ By William Shakespeare ” on the title-page. It was not entered on the books of the Stationers’ Company.

The play was not included in the folio of 1623, and, apparently, was not reprinted until its appearance in the third folio, in 1664, with six other plays of uncertain Shakespearean authorship.

The discussion of the problem thus raised does not fall within the scope of the present undertaking.

Mr. J. A. Herbert, of the Manuscript Department of the British Museum, after comparing this facsimile with the original copy, says :— “ The paper is thin in the original, and the ink shows through more or less in various places. This has made a difficulty as usual, the facsimile inevitably exaggerating the effect of this sometimes. Apart from a few blemishes of this kind there is nothing but praise to be spoken of the facsimiles.”

JOHN S. FARMER.

THE LONDON Prodigall.

As it was plaide by the Kings Maie-
ties seruants.

By *William Shakespeare,*



LONDON.

Printed by T. C. for Nathaniel Butter, and
are to be sold neere *S. Austins gate,*
at the signe of the pyde Bull.

1605.





THE LONDON Prodigall.

Enter old Flowerdale and his brother.

Fath. Brother from *Venice*, being thus disguise,
I come to proue the humours of my sonne:
How hath he borne himselfe since my departure,
I leauing you his patrone and his guide?

Vuck. Ifaith brother so, as you will grieue to heare,
And I almost ashamde to report it.

Fath. Why how ist brother? what doth he spend
Beyond the allowance I left him?

Vuck. How! beyond that: and farre moretwhy, your exhibi-
on is nothing, hee hath spent that, and since hath borrowed,
protected with oathes, alledged kindred to wring mony from
me, by the loue I bore his father, by the fortunes might fall
vpon himselfe, to furnish his wants: that done, I haue had since,
his bond, his friend and friends bond, altho I knowe that hee
spends is yours; yet it grieues me to see the vnbridled wildnes
that raines ouer him.

Fath. Brother, what is the manner of his life? howe is the
name of his offences? if they do not rellish altogether of dam-
nation, his youth may priuiledge his wantonnesse: I my selfe
ranne an vnbrideled course till thirtie, nay almost till fortie,
well, you see how I am: for vice once looked into with the eies
of discretion, and well balanced with the waites of reason, the
course past, seemes so abhorrible, that the Landlord of him-
selfe, which is the heart of his body, will rather intombe him-
selfe

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selfin the earth, or seek a new Tenāt to remaine in him, which once settled, how much better are they that in their youth haue knowne all these vices, and lest it, then those that knewe little, and in their age runnes into it? Beleeue me brother, they that dye most vertuous, hath in their youth, liued most vicious, and none knowes the danger of the fire, more then he that falles into it: But say, how is the course of his lifelets heare his particulars.

Vnck. Why Ile tell you brother, hee is a continual swearer, And a breaker of his oathes, which is bad.

Vnck. I grant indeed to sweare is bad, but not in keeping those oathes is better for who will set by a bad thing?

Nay by my faith, I hold this rather a vertue then a vice,

Well, I pray proceede.

(the worst.

Vnck. He is a mighty brawler, and comes commonly by

Fath. By my faith this is none of the worst neither, for if he Brawle and be beaten for it, it wil in time make him shunne it: For what brings man or child, more to vertue, then correctiō? What raignes ouer him else?

(selfe.

Vnck. He is a great drinker, and one that will forget him

Fath. O best of all, vice should be forgotten: let him drink So he drinke not churches.

(on,

Nay and this be the worst, I hold it rather a happines in him, Then any iniquity. Hath he any more attendants?

Vnck. Brother, he is one that will borrow of any man.

Fath. Why you see so doth the sea, it borrowes of all the smal Currents in the world, to encrease himselfe.

Vnck. I, but the sea paies it againe, and so will neuer your son.

Fath. No more would the sea neither, if it were as dry as my sonne.

Vnck. Then brother, I see you rather like these vices in your Then any way condemne them.

(sonne,

Fath. Nay mistake me not brother, for tho I slur them ouer now,

As things slight and nothing, his crimes being in the budde, It would gall my heart, they should euer raigne in him.

Flaw. Ho! whoes within he?

Flowerdale knockes within.

Vnck. That's

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Vnck. That's your sonne, hee is come to borrowe more money.

Fath. For Godsake giue it out I am dead, see how hele take it, Say I haue brought you newes from his father.

I haue here drawne a formall will, as it were from my selfe, Which he deliuer him.

Vnck. Goetoo brother, no more: I will.

Flow. Vnckle, where are you Vnckle? within,

Vnck. Let my cousen in there.

Fath. I am a Saylor come from Venice, and my name is
(*Christopher.*)

Enter Flowerdale.

Flow. By the Lord, in truth Vnckle.

Vnck. In truth would a seru'd cousen, without the Lord.

Flow. By your leaue Vnckle, the Lord, is the Lord of truth, A couple of rascalles at the gate, set vpon me for my purse.

Vnck. You neuer come, but you bring a brawle in your mouth.

Flow. By my truth Vnckle, you must needes lend me tenne
(pound.

Vnck. Give my cousen some small beere here.

Flow. Nay looke you, you turne it to a rest now, by this light, I should ryde to Croydon fayre, to meete syr Lancelot Sparrock, I should haue his daughter Luce, and for security

Tenne pound, a man shal loofe nine hundred three score and odde pounds, and a daily friend beside, by this hande Vnckle tis true.

Vnck. Why, any thing is true for ought I know.

Flow. To see now: why you shall haue my bond Vnckle, or *Tom Whites*, *Iames Brock*; or *Nick Halls*, as good rapyer and dagger men, as any be in England, lets be dambn'd it wee doe not pay you, the worst of vs all will not damne our selues for ten pound. A poxe of ten pound.

Vnck. Cousen, this is not the first time I haue beleu'd you.

Flow. Why trust me now, you know not what may fall:

None thing were but true, I would not greatly care,

The London Prodigall.

Fath. Yfaith syr according to the old Proverbe,
The childe was botnet: and cryed, became man,
After fell sicke, and dyed.

Vnck. Nay cousen doe not take it so heavily.

Flow. Nay I cannot weepe you extempory, mary some
two or three dayes hence, I shall weepe without any stintance.
But I hope he dyed in good memory.

Fath. Very well syr, and set downe euery thing in good order,
And the Katherine and Hue you talkt of, I came ouer in:
And I saw all the billes of lading, and the vellet
That you talkt of, there is no such aboard.

Flow. By God I assure you, then there is knauery abroad.

Fath. Ile be sworne of that: ther's knauery abroad,
Altho there were neuer a peece of vellet in Venice.

Flow. I hope he dyed in good estate.

Fath. To the report of the world he did, and made his
Of which I am an vnworthy bearer.

Flow. His will, haue you his will.

Fath. Yes syr, and in the presence of your Vnckle,
I was willed to deliuer it.

Vnck. I hope touse, now God hath blessed you with
wealth, you will not be vnmindfull of me.

Flow. Ile doe reason Vnckle, yet yfaith I take the deniall
of this tenne pound very hardly.

Vnck. Nay I denyde you not.

Flow. By God you denide me directly.

Vnck. Ile be iudge by this good-fellowe.

Fath. Not directly syr.

Flow. Why he said he would lend me none, and that had
wont to be a direct denyall, if the old phrase holde:
Well Vnckle, come weele fall to the Legasies,
In the name of God, Amen.

Item, I bequeath to my brother Flowerdale, three hundred
pounds, to pay such triuall debts as I owe in London.

Item, to my sonne Mat Flowerdale, I bequeath two bayle of
falsc dyce, Videlliced, high men, and loe men, fullomes, stop
cater traies, and other bones of function.

Flow. Sblood what doth he meane by this?

Vnck. Procee

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Vnck. Proceede counsell.

(*path.*

Flow. These precepts I leaue him, let him borrow of his
For of his word no body will trust him.
Let him by no meanes marry an honest woman,
For the other will keepe her selfe.
Let him steale as much as he can, that a guilty conscience
May bring him to his destinate repentance,
I thinke he meanes hanging. And this were his last will and
Testament, the Diuell stood laughing at his beddes feete
while he made it. Sblood, what doth hee thinke to fop of his
posteritie with Paradoxes.

Faith. This he made syr with his owne hands.

Flow. I, well, nay come good Vnckle, let me haue this ten
pound, I imagine you haue lost it, or robd of it, or misreckond
your selfe so much: any way to make it come easily off, good
Vnckle.

Vnck. Not a penny.

Faith. Yfaith lend it him syr! my selfe haue an estate in the
Citie worth twenty pound, all that ile ingage for him, he faith
it concerns him in a marriage.

Flow. I marry doth it, this is a fellow of some sense, this:
Come good Vnckle.

Vnck. Will you giue your word for it *Kefer*

Faith. I will syr, willingly.

Vnck. Well counsell, come to me some hower hence, you shall
haue it readie.

Flow. Shall I not faile

Vnck. You shall not, come or send.

Flow. Nay ile come my selfe.

Faith. By my troath, would I were your worships man.

Flow. What wouldst thou serue?

Faith. Very willingly syr.

Flow. Why ile tell thee what thou shalt doe, thou faith thou
hast twentie pound, goe into *Burchin Lane*, put thy selfe into
cleathes, thou shalt ride with me to *Croyden* fayre.

Faith. I thanke you syr, I will attend you.

Flow. Well Vnckle, you will not faile me an hower hence?

Vnck. I will not counsell.

Flow. Whats



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Flow. Whats thy name *Kester* to me?

Fash. I syr.

Flow. Well, provide thy selfe: I wackle farowell till I see you.

Exit Flowerdale.

Vnck. Brother, how doe you like your sonnes?

Fash. Yfaith brother, like a mad vnbridled colt,

Or as a Hawke, that neuer stoop'd to lure;

The one must be tam'd with an yron byt,

The other must be watch'd, or still she is wilde,

Such is my sonne, awhile let him be so;

For counsell still is folli'es deadly foe.

He seru's his youth, for youth must haue his course,

For being restraine'd, it makes him ten times worse:

His pride, his ryot; all that may be nam'd,

Time may recall, and all his madnesse tam'd.

Enter syr *Lancelot*, Maister *Weathercocke*, *Daffidill*,

Artichoke, *Luce*, and *Francke*.

Lance. Syr *gha*, *Artichoke*, get you home before,

And as you prou'd your selfe a calfe in bying,

Drine home your fellow calves that you haue bought.

Arti. Yes forsooth, shall not my fellow *Daffidill* goe along
(with me.

Lance. No syr, no, I must haue one to waite on me.

Arti. *Daffidill*, farewell good fellow *Daffidill*,

You may see mistresse, I am set vp by the halues,

In steed of waiting on you, I am sent to drine home calves.

Lance. Yfaith *Francke*, I must turne away this *Daffidill*,

Hees growne a very foolish sawcie fellow.

Fran. Indeed law father, he was so since I had him;

Before he was wise enough, for a foolish seruing-man.

Wea. But what say you to me syr *Lancelot*?

Lance. O, about my daughters, wel I will goe forward,

Heers two of them God gaue them, but the third,

O shees a stranger in her course of life,

Shee hath refused you Maister *Weathercocke*.

Wea. I by the Rood syr *Lancelot* that she hath.

But had she tride me, she should a found a man of me indeed.

Lance. Nay be not angry syr, at her deniall,

B

She

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Shee hath refus'd seauen of the worshipfullst and worthiest
housekeepers this day in *Kent*:

Indeed she will not marry I suppose,

Wea. The more foole she,

Lance. What is it folly to loue Charitie?

Wea. No mistake me not syr *Lancelot*,

But tis an old prouerbe, and you know it well,

That women dying maides, lead apes in hell.

Lance. Thats a foolish prouerbe, and a false.

Wea. By the masse I thinke it be, and therefore let it goe:
But who shall marry with mistresse *Frances*?

Fran. By my troath they are talking of marrying me sister.

Luce. Peace, let them talke:

Fooles may haue leaue to prattle as they walke.

Daff. Sentelles still sweet mistresse,

You haue a wit, and it were your Aliblaste.

Luce. Yfaith and thy tongue trips trench-more.

Lance. No of my knight-hood, not a shuter yet:

Alas God helpe her sillie girle, a foole, a verie foole:

But thers the other black-browes a shrood girle,

Shee hath wit at will, and shutters two or three;

Syr *Arthur Greene-sheld* one, a gallant knight,

A valiant Souldier, but his power but poore.

Then thers yong *Oliuer*, the *Deuen-shyre* lad,

A wary fellow, marry full of wit,

And rich by the rood, but thers a third all aire,

Light as a feather, changing as the wind: yong *Flowerdale*:

Wea. O hee syr, hees a desperate dick indeed.

Barre him your house.

Lance. Fye not so, hees of good parentage:

Wea. By my faie and so he is, and a proper man.

Lance. I proper enough, had he good qualities.

Wea. I marrie, thers the point syr *Lancelot*:

For thers an old saying,

Be he rich, or be he poore,

Be he hye, or be he lowe:

Be he borne in barne or hall,

Tis maners makes the man and all,

Lance. You

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Lance. You are in the right maister *Weathercock.*

Enter Monsieur Cinet.

Cinet. Soule, I thinke I am sure crossed,
Or witcht with an owle, I haue hanted them: Inne after Inne,
booth, after booth, yet cannot finde them, ha yonder they are,
thats she, I hope to God tis shee, nay I know tis shee now, for
she treads her shooe a little awry.

Lance. Where is this Inne? we are past it *Daffidill.* (before.

Daffidill. The good signe is heere syr, but the back gate is

Cinet. Saue you syr, I pray may I borrow a peece of a
word with you?

Daff. No peeces syr.

Cin. Why then the whole.

I pray syr, what may yonder gentlewomen be?

Daff. They may be Ladies syr, if the destinies and mortalities

Cin. Whats her name syr. (worke.

Daff. *Mistresse Frances Spurcocke, syr Lancelots Spurcocks*

Cin. Is she a maid syr. (daughter.

Daff. You may aske *Pluto*, and dame *Proserpina* that:

I would be loth to be ridelled syr.

Cin. Is she married I meane syr?

Daff. The Fates knowes not yet what shoe-maker shall
make her wedding shooes.

Cin. I pray where Iane you syr? I would be very glad to be-
stowe the wine of that gentlewoman.

Daff. At the *George* syr.

Cin. God saue you syr.

Daff. I pray your name syr?

Cin. My name is maister *Cinet* syr.

Daff. A sweet name, God be with you good maister *Cinet.*

Exit Cinet.

Lance. A, haue we spide you stout *S. George*?

For all your dragon, you had best selles good wine?

That needs no yuie-bush, well, weece not fit by it,

As you do on your horse, this roome shall serue?

Drawer, let me haue sacke for vs old men:

For these girles and knaues small wines are best.

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A pinte of sacke, no more,

Draw. A quart of sack in the three Tunnes,

Lance. A pinte, draw but a pinte *Daffidill*,

Call for wine to make your selues drinke.

Frau. And a cup of small beere, and a cake good *Daffidill*.

Enter young Flowerdale.

Flow. How now, sye, lit in the open roome, now good syr
Lancelot, & my kind friend worshipfull Maister *Weathercock*,
What at your pinte, a quart for shame.

Lance. Nay. Roylter by your leave we will away.

Flow. Come, giues some Musicke, wee le goe dance,
Begone syr *Lancelot*, what, and fayre day too.

Lance. T were fowly done, to dance within the fayre.

Flow. Nay if you say so, fairest of all fayres,

Then ile not dance, a poxe vpon my tayler,
He hath poyled me a peach colour, fatten shute,
Cut vpon cleath of silver, but if euer the Rascall serue me such
an other tricke, Ile giue him leaue yfaith to put me in the ca-
lender of foolles, and you, and you, syr *Lancelot*, and Maister
Weathercock, my gold-smith too on tother side, I bespoke thee
Luce, a carkenet of gold, and thought thou shouldst a had it
for a sayting; and the Rogue puts me in reuages for Oryant
Pearle: but thou shalt haue it by Sunday night wench.

Enter the Drawer.

Draw. Syr, here is one hath sent you a pottle of renniss
wine, brewed with Rose-water.

Flow. To me?

Draw. No syr to the knight, and desires his more acquain-

Lance. To me: what's he that promises so kind a tance.

Daff. I haue a trick to know his name syr,
He hath a moneths mind here to mistresse *Frances*, his name
is *maister Cinct*.

Lance. Call him in *Daffidill*.

Flow. O I know him syr, he is a foole,
But reasonable rich, his father was one of these lease-mongers,
these corne-monger; these mony-mongers, but he never had
the wit to be a whore-monger.

Enter maister Cinct.

Lance. I

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Lance. I promise you syr, you are at too much charge.

Cyner. The charge is small charge syr,
I thanke God my father left me wherewithall, if it please you
syr, I haue a great mind to this gentlewoman here, in the way
(of marriage.

Lance. I thanke you syr: please you come to *Leuisme* to my
poore house, you shall be kindly welcome: I knewe your fa-
ther, he was a wary husband: to paie here Drawer.

Draw. All is paid syr: this gentelman hath paid all.

Lance. Yfaith you do vs wrong,
But we shall liue to make amends ere long:
Maister Flowerdale, is that your man?

Flow. Yes faith, a good old knaue.

Lance. Nay then I thinke you will turne wife,
Now you take such a seruant:

Come, youle ride with vs to *Leuisme*, lets away!

Tis scarce two howres to the end of day. *(Exit Omnes.)*

*Enter syr Arthur Green-shood, Olyuer, Lieu-
tenant and Souldiers.*

Aur. Lieustenant, leade your Souldiers to the ships,
There let them haue their coates, at their arrivall
They shall haue pay: farewell, looke to your charge.

Sol. I, we are now sent away, and cannot so much as speake
with our friends.

Oh. No man what ere you vsed a zutch a fashion, thicke
you cannot take your leaue of your vreens.

Aur. Fellow no more, Lieustenant lead them off.

Sol. Well, if I haue not my pay and my cloathes,
Ile venture a running away tho I hang fort.

Aur. Away surrha, charme your tongue,

Exit Souldiers,

Oh. Bin and you a presser syr?

Aur. I am a commander syr vader the King.

Oh. Sfoot man, and you bee nere zutch a commander
Shud a spoke with my vreens before I chid agone, so shud.

Aur. Content your selfe man, my authority will stretch
to presse so good a man as you.

Oh. Presse me? I deuye, presse scoundrells, and thy messels:

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Presse me, chee scornes thee ysaith: For seest thee, heres a wor-
shipfull knight knowes, cham not to be pressed by thee.

*Enter syr Lancelot Weathercocke, yong Flowerdale,
old Flowerdale, Luce, Franck,*

Lance. Syr *Arthur*, welcome to *Lewsome*, welcome by my
Whats the matter man, why are you vext? (troath,

Oly. Why man he would presse me.

Lance. O Fie syr *Arthur*, presse him: he is man of reckoning.

Wca. I that he is syr *Arthur*, he hath the nobles,
The golden ruddockes he.

Ar. The fitter for the warres: and were he not in fauour
With your worships, he should see,
That I haue power to presse so good as he.

Oly. Chill stand to the triall, so chill.

Flow. I marry shall he, presse-cloath and karsie,
White pot and drowfen broath: tut, tut, he cannot.

Oly. Well syr, tho you see vlouten cloath and karsie, chee a
zeene zutch a karsie coate weare out the towne sick a zilken
Jacket, as thick a one you weare.

Flow. Well sed vlitan vlattan.

Oly. A and well sed cocknell, and boe-bell too: what doest
thincke cham a vearde of thy zilken coate, no fer vere thee.

Lance. Nay come no more, be all louers and friends.

Wca. I tis best so, good maister *Olyuer*.

Flow. Is your name maister *Olyuer* I pray you?

Oly. What tit and be tit, and grieue you.

Flow. No but Ide gladly know if a man might not haue a
foolish plot out of maister *Olyuer* to worke vpon.

Oly. Worke thy plots vpon me, stand a side, worke thy
foolish plots vpon me, chil so vse thee, thou weart neuer so
vsed since thy dame bound thy head, worke vpon me?

Flow. Let him come, let him come.

Oly. Zyrha, zyrha, if it were not vor shame, chee would a
giuen

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giuen thee zutch a whister poope vnder the eare, chee would
a made thee a vanged an other at my feete : stand a side let
me loose, chame all of a vlaming fire. brand; Stand aside.

Flou. Well I forbear you for your friends sake.

Oly. Avig for all my vreens , doest thou tell me of my
(vreens?

Lance. No more good maister *Oliuer*, no more syr *Arthur*,
And maiden, here in the sight of all your shuters , euery man
of worth , He tell you whom I faintest would preferre to the
hard bargine of your marriage bed : shall I be plaine among
you gentlemen?

Arty. I syr tis best.

Lance. Then syr, first to you, I doe confesse you a most
gallant knight, a worthy souldier, and an honest man: but ho-
nestie maintaines a french-hood, goes very feldome in a chain
of gold, keepes a small traine of seruants: hath fewe friendes:
and for this wilde oates here, young *Flowerdale*, I will not
iudge, God can worke myracles, but hee were better make a
hundred new, then thee a thrifty and an honest one.

Wea. Beleue me he hath byt you there, he hath touched
you to the quicke, that hath he,

Flou. Woodcocke a my side, why maister *Weathercocke*:
you know I am honest, howsoeuer trifles.

Wea. Now by my troath, I knowe no otherwise,
O your old mother was a dame indeed :

Heauen hath her soule, and my wiues too I trust:
And your good father, honest gentleman,
He is gone a Iourney as I heare, far hence.

Flou. I God be praised, he is far enough,
He is gone a pylgrimage to Paradise,

And left me to cut a caper against care,

Luce looke on me that am as light as ayre.

Luce. Yfaith I like not shadowes, bubbles, broath,

I hate a light a loue, as I hate death.

Lance. Gyrle hold thee there: looke on this Deuen-shyre
(lad:

Fat, faire, and louely, both in purse and person.

Oly. Well!

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Oly. Well syr, chame as the Lord hath made me,
You know me well yuine, cha haue three-score packe a kar-
say, and blackem hal, and chiefe credit beside, and my fortunes
may be so good as an others, zoe it may.

Lance. Tis you I loue, whatsoeuer others say?

Ar. Thanks sayrest.

Flow. What wouldst thou haue me quarrell with him?

Fash. Doe but say he shall heare from you.

Lance. Yet gentleman, howsoeuer I preferre this Deuen-
shyre shuter,

He enforce no loue, my daughter shall haue liberty to choose
whom she likes best, in your loue shute proceed:

Not all of you, but onely one must speed.

Wsa. You haue sed well: indeed right well.

Enter Artychocak.

Arty. Mistresse heeres one would speake with you, my
fellow *Daffidill* hath him in the sellor already, he knowes him,
he met him at *Croyden* sayre.

Lance. O I remember a little man.

Arty. I a very little man.

Lance. And yet a proper man.

Arty. A very proper, very little man.

Lance. His name is Mounfier *Ciuet*.

Arty. The same syr.

Lance. Come Gentlemen, if other shuters come,
My foolish daughter will be fitted too:
But *Delia* my saine, no man dare moue.

*Exit at all but young Flowerdale and Olyuer,
and old Flowerdale.*

Flow. Harke you syr, a word.

Oly. What ha an you to say to me now?

Flow. Ye shall heare from me, and that very shortly.

Oly. Is that all, vare thee well, chee vere thee not, a vig.

Exit Olyuer.

Flow. What if should come more? I am fairely drest.

Fash. I doe not meane that you shall meete with him,
But presently wee le goe and draw a will:
Where wee le set downe land, that we neuer sawe,

And



The London Prodigall.

And we will haue it of so large a summe,
Syr *Lancelot* shall intreat you take his daughter:
This being formed, giue it maister *Weathercocke*,
And make syr *Lancelots* daughter heire of all:
And make him sweare, neuer to shew the will
To any one, vntil that you be dead,
This done, the foolish changing *Weathercocke*,
Will straight discourse vnto syr *Lancelot*,
The forme and tenor of your Testament,
Nor stand to pause of it, be iudged by mee:
What will inshue, that shall you quickly see.

Flaw. Come lets about it: if that a will sweet *Kyr*,
Can get the wench, I shall renoune thy wit.

Exit omnes.

Enter Daffidill.

Daff. Mistresse still froward?

No kind lookes vnto your *Daffidill*, now by the Gods.

Luc. Away you foolish knaue, let my hand goe.

Daff. There is your hand, but this shall goe with me:
My heart is thine, this is my true loues fee.

Luc. He haue your coate stript ore your eares for this;
You sawcie rascall.

Enter Lancelot and Weathercocke.

Lance. How new maid, what is the newes with you?

Luc. Your man is something sawcie. *Exit Luc.*

Lance. Goe too syr rha, he talke with you anon.

Daff. Syr I am a man to be talked withall,
I am no horse I tro:

I know my strength, then no more then so.

VVea. A by the matkins, good syr *Lancelot*, I saw him the
other day hold vp the bucklers, like an *Hercules*,
Ifaith God a marcie lad, I like thee well.

Lance. I, I like him well, go syr rha fetch me a cup of wine,
That ere I part with maister *Weathercocke*,
We may diinke downe our farewell in French wine.

VVea. I thanke you syr, I thanke you friendly knight,
He come and visit you, by the incuse-foot I will:

In the meane time, take heed of cutting *Flowerdale*,

The London Prodigall.

He is a desperate dyck I warrant you.

Lance. He is, he is; fill *Daffidill*, fill me some wine, ha, what weares he on his arme.

My daughter *Luces* bracelet, *I* tis the same:

Ha to you maister *Weathercocke*.

Wea. I thanke you syr: Here *Daffidill*, an honest fellow and a tall thou art: well, ile take my leave good knight, and hope to haue you and all your daughters at my poore house, in good
(sooth I must.

Lance. Thankes maister *Weathercocke*, I shall be bold to trouble you be sure.

Wea. And welcome, hartily farewell. (Exit *Weathercocke*.)

Lance. Syrha I saw my daughters wrong, and withall her bracelet on your arme, off with it: and with it my livery too, Haue I care to see my daughter matched with men of worship, and are you growne so bold? Goe syrha from my house, or ile whip you hence.

Daff. Ile not be whipped, syr, theres your livery.

(Exit *Daffidill*.)

This is a seruiegmans reward, what care I,
I haue meanes to trust too; I scorn seruice I.

Lance. Ia lusty knave, but I must let him goe,
Our seruants must be taught, what they should know.

Enter syr Arthur and *Luce*.

Luce. Syr, as I am a maid, I doe affect you aboue any shuter
that I haue, altho that souldiers scarce knowes how to loue.

Ar. I am a souldier, and a gentleman,
Knowes what belongs to war, what to a lady:
What man offends me, that my sword shall right:
What woman loues me, I am her faithfull knight.

Luce. I neither doubt your valour, nor your loue, but
there be some that bares a souldiers forme, that sweares by him
they neuer thinke vpon, goes swaggering vp and downe from
house to house, crying God payes: and,

Ar. Ifaith Lady ile discry you such a man,
Of them there be many which you haue spoke off,

That

The London Prodigall.

That beare the name and shape of souldiers,
Yet God knowes very seldome saw the war:
That haunt your Taverns, and your ordinaries,
Your ale-houses sometimes, for all a-like
To uphold the brutish humour of their mindes,
Being marked downe, for the bondmen of dispare:
Their mirth begins in wine, but endes in blood,
Their drinke is cleare, but their conceits are mud,

Luce. Yet these are great gentlemen souldiers.

Ar. No they are wretched slaues,
Whose desperate liues doth bring them timelesse graues.

Luce. Both for your selfe, and for your forme of life,
If I may choose, ile be a souldiers wife.

Enter s^r Lancelot and Oliuer.

Oli. And tyt trust to it so then.

Lance. Assure your selfe,
You shall be married with all speed we may:
One day shall serue for *Frances* and for *Luce*.

Oli. Why che wood vaine know the time, for providing
wedding rayments.

Lance. Why no more but this, first get your assurance made,
touching my daughters ioynter, that dispatched, we wil in two
daies make prouision.

Oli. Why man chil haue the writings made by to morrow.

Lance. To morrow be it then, lets meet at the kings head
in fishstreet.

Oli. No fie man no, lets meet at the Rose at *Temple-bar*,
That will be nearer your counsellor and mine.

Lance. At the Rose, be it then the hower nine,
He that comes last, forfeits a pinte of wine.

Oli. A pinte is no paymēt, let it be a whole quart, or nothing.

Enter Artichoke.

Art. Maister, here is a man would speake with maister *Oliuer*,
he comes from young maister *Flowerdale*.

Oli. Why chill speake with him, chill speake with him.

Lance. Nay sonne *Oliuer*, ile shurely see,
What young *Flowerdale* hath sent to you.
I pray God it be no quarrell.

The London Prodigall.

Oh. Why man if he quarrell with me, chill giue him his

Fath. God saue you good syr *Lancelot.* (hands full.

Lance. Welcome honest friend. (Enter old Flowerdale.

Fath. To you and yours my maister wisheth health,
But vnto you syr this, and this he sendes:
There is the length syr of his rapier,
And in that paper shall you know his mind.

Oh. Here chill meet him: my vrend, chill meet him.

Lance. Meet him, you shall not meet the Ruffin fye.

Oh. And I doe not meete him, chill giue you leaue to call
Me: cur, where ist syr that where ist where ist?

Fath. The letter shoves both the time and place,
And if you be a man, then keepe your word.

Lance. Syr he shal not keepe his word, he shal not meet.

Fath. Why let him choose, heele be the better knowne
For a base rascall, and reputed so.

Oh. Zyrtha, zyrtha and tware not an old fellow, and sent
after an arrant, cl i'll giue thee something, but chud be no mo-
ny: But hold thee, for I see thou art somewhat testorne, holde
thee, theres vortie shillings, bring thy maister a veeld, chil giue
thee vortie more, looke thou bring him, chil mail him tell him,
chill mar his dauncing tressels, chil vse him, he was nere so vsed
since his dam bound his head, chill make him for copyring a-
ny more chy vor thee.

Fath. You seeme a man, stout and resolute,
And I will so report, what ere befall.

Lance. And fall out ill, as sure thy maister this,
He make him flye the land, or vse him worse.

Fath. My maister syr, deserues not this of you,
And that youle shortly finde.

Lance. Thy maister is an vnthrift, you a knaue,
And ile attache you first, next clap him vp:
Or haue him bound vnto his good behauiour.

Oh. I woud you were a sprite if you do him any harme for
this: And you doe, chill nere see you, nor any of yours, while
chill haue eyes open: what doe you thinke, chil be abaffelled
vp and downe the towne for a messell, and a scoundrel, no chy
bor you: zyrtha chil come, zay no more, chil come tell him.

Fath. Well

The London Prodigall.

Fath. Well sir, my Maister deserues not this of you,
And that youle shortly finde. *Exit.*

Oh. No matter, he's an vnthrift, I desie him.

Lanc. No, gentle sonne, let me know the place.

Oh. Now chy vore you.

Lanc. Let me see the note.

Oh. Nay, chill watch you for zuch a trick.
But if the meer him zoe, if not, zoe: chill make him knowe
me, or chill know why I shall not, chill vare the worfe.

Lanc. What will you then neglect my daughters loue?
Venture your state and hers, for a loose brawle?

Oh. Why man, chill not kill him; marry chill yeze him too,
and againe; and zoe God be with you vather.

What mar, we shall met to morrow. *Exit.*

Lanc. Who would a thought he had bin so desperate.
Come forth my honest seruant *Artichoke.* *Enter Artie.*

Artie. Now, whar's the matter? some brawle toward, I war-
rant you.

Lanc. Goe get me thy sword bright scowred, thy buckler
mended, O for that knaue, that *Vyllaine Daffidull* would haue
done good seruice. But to thee.

Art. I, this is the trickes of all you gentlemen, when you
stand in neede of a good fellow. O for that *Daffidull*, O where
is he; but if you be angry, and it bee but for the wagging of a
strawe, then out a doores with the knaue, turne the coate o-
uer his eares. This is the humour of you all.

Lanc. O for that knaue, that lustie *Daffidull*.

Art. Why there tis now: our yeares wages and our vailes
will scarce pay for broken swords and bucklers that wee vse
in our quarrels. But Ile not fight if *Daffidull* bee a tother side,
that's flat.

Lanc. Tis no such matter man, get weapons ready, and bee
at London ere the breake of day: watch neere the lodging
of the Deuon-shire Youth, but be vnseen: and as he goes out,
as he will goe out, and that very earely without doubt.

Art. What would you haue me draw vpon him,
As he goes in the streete?

Lanc. Not for a world man: into the fields.

The London Prodigall.

For to the field he goes, there to meet the desperat *Flowerdale*,
Take thou the part of *Oliver* my sonne, for he shal be my son,
And marry *Luce*: Doeſt vnderſtand me knaue?

Art. I ſyr I doe vnderſtand you, but my young miſtreſſe
might be better provided in matching with my fellowe *Daf-*

Lance. No more; *Daffidill* is a knaue: (ſhall.
That *Daffidill* is a moſt notorious knaue. (Exit.

Enter Weathercocke.

Maſter *Weathercocke*, you come in happy time, The desperat
Flowerdale hath writ a challenge: And who thinke you muſt
anſwere it? but the Deuenshyre man, my ſonne *Oliver*,

Wea. Mary I am ſory for it good ſyr *Lancelot*,
But if you will be ruled by me, wee le ſtay the ſurie.

Lance. As how I pray?

Wea. Marry ile tell you, by promiſing yong *Flowerdale* the
red lipped *Luce*.

Lance. Ile rather follow her vnto her graue.

Wea. I ſyr *Lancelot* I would haue thought ſo too, but you
and I haue bene deceiued in him, come read this will, or deed,
or what you call it, I know not: Come, come, your ſpectacles
(I pray.

Lance. Nay I thanke God, I ſee very well.

Wea. Marry God bleſſe your eyes, mine hath bene dim al-
moſt this thirtie yeares,

Lance. Ha what is this? what is this?

Wea. Nay there is true loue indeede, he gaue it to me but
this very morne, and bid me keepe it vnſeene from any one,
good youth, to ſee, how men may be deceiued.

Lance. Paſſion of me, what a wretch am I to hate this
louing youth, he hath made me, together with my *Luce* hee
loues ſo deare, executors of all his wealth.

Wea. All, all good man, he hath giuen you all.

Lance. Three ſhips now in the ſtraits, & homeward bound,
Two Lordſhips of two hundred pound a yeare:
The one in *Wales*, the other in *Gloſterſhyre*:
Debts and accounts, are thirtie thouſand pound,

Plate

The London Prodigall.

Plate, mony, Jewels, 16. thousand more,
Two houses furnished well in *Cole-man street*:
Beside whatsoeuer his Vnckle leaues to him,
Being of great demeanes and wealth at *Peckham*.

Wea. How like you this good knight? how like you this?

Lance. I haue done him wrong, but now ile make amends,
The Deuen-shyre man shall whistle for a wife,
He marrie *Luce*, *Luce* shall be *Flowerdaisy*.

Wea. Why that is friendly said, lets ride to *London* and pre-
uent their match, by promising your daughter to that lovely
(lad.

Lance. Weele ride to *London*, or it shall not need,
Weele crosse to *Dedfort-strand*, and take a boat:
Where be these knaues? what *Artichooke*, what *Fop*?

Enter Artichooke.

Art. Heere be the very knaues, but not the merry knaues.

Lance. Here take my cloake, ile haue a walke to *Dedford*.

Art. Syr wee haue bin scouring of our swords and buck-
lers for your defence.

Lance. Defence me no defence, let your swordes rust, ile
haue no fighting: I, le blowes a'one, bid *Delia* see all things be
in readinesse against the wedding, wee haue two a'once,
and that will saue charges maister *Weathercocke*.

Art. Well we will doe it syr.

Exit Omnes.

Enter Cinet, Francke, and Delia.

Cin. By my truth this is good lucke, I thanke God for this,
In good sooth I haue euen my harts desire: sister *Delia*, now I
may boldly call you so, for your father hath franck and freely
giuen me his daughter *Francke*.

Fran. I by my troth *Tom*, thou hast my good will too, for
I thanke God I longed for a husband, and would I might ne-
uer stir, for one his name was *Tom*.

Delia. Why sister now you haue your wish.

Cin. You say very true sister *Delia*, and I prethee call me
nothing but *Tom*, and ile call thee sweetheart, and *Francke*: will
it not doe well sister *Delia*?

Delia. It.

The London Prodigall.

Delia. It will doe very well with both of you. (ed†

Fran. But *Tom*, must I goe as I doe now when I am marri-

Cic. No *Francke*, ile haue thee goe like a Citizen
In a garded gowne, and a French-hood.

Fran. By my troth that will be excellent indeed,

Delia. Brother, maintaine your wife to your estate,
Apparell you your selfe like to your father:
And let her goe like to your ancient mother,
He sparing got his wealth, left it to you,
Brother take heed of pride, some bids thrift adue.

Cin. So as my father and my mother went, thats a iest
indeed, why she went in a fringed gowne, a single ruffe, and a
white cap.

And my father in a mocado coat, a paire of red fatten sleeues,
and a canuis backe.

Delia. And yet his wealth was all as much as yours.

Cin. My estate, my estate I thank God is fortie pound a yere,
in good leases and tenements, besides twenty marke a yere
at cuckoldes-hauen, and that comes to vs all by inheritance.

Delia. That may indeed, tis very fitly plyed,
I know not how it comes, but so it falles out
That those whose fathers haue died wonderous rich,
And tooke no pleasure but to gather wealth,
Thinking of little that they leaue behind:
For them they hope, will be of their like minde,
But falles out contrary, forty yeares sparing
Is scarce three seuen yeares spending, neuer caring
What will inshue, when all their coyne is gone,
And all too late, then thrift is thought vpon:
Oft haue I heard, that pride and ryot kist,
And then repentance crues, for had I wist.

Cin. You say well sister *Delia*, you say well: but I meane
to liue within my boundes: for looke you, I haue set downe
my rest thus farre, but to maintaine my wife in her french-
hood, and her coach, keepe a couple of geldings, and a brace
of gray hounds, and this is all ile doe.

Delia. And youle do this with fortie pound a yere?

Cin. I, and a better penny sister.

Fran. Sister



The London Prodigall.

Fran. Sister you forget that at couckolds-hauen.

Cin. By my troath well remembred *Francke*,
He giue thee that to buy thee pinnes.

Delia. Keepe you the rest for points, alas the day,
Foolles shall haue wealth, tho all the world say nay:
Come brother will you in, dinner staies for vs.

Cin. I good sister with all my heart.

Fran. I by my troath *Tom*, for I haue a good stomacke.

Cin. And I the like sweet *Francke*, no sister
Doe not thinke ile goe beyond my boundes.

Delia. God grant you may not.

(Exit Omnes.)

Enter young Flowerdale, and his father, with foyles
in their handes.

Flow. Syrrha *Kye*, tarrie thou there, I haue spied syr *Lancelot*,
and old *Weathercocke* comming this way, they are hard at
hand, I will by no meanes be spoken withall.

Fath. He warrant you, goe get you in.

Enter Lancelot and Weathercocke.

Lance. Now my honest friend, thou doest belong to mai-

Fath. I doe syr.

(After Flowerdale?)

Lance. Is he within my good fellowe

Fath. No syr he is not within.

Lance. I prethee if he be within, let me speake with him.

Fath. Syr to tell you true, my maister is within, but indeed
would not be spoke withall: there be some tearmes that stands
vpon his reputation, therefore he will not admit any conse-
rence till he hath shooke them off.

Lance. I prethee tell him his verie good friend syr *Lance-
lot Spurcocke*, intreates to speake with him.

Fath. By my troath syr, if you come to take vp the matter
betweene my maister and the Deuen-shyre man, you doe but
beguile your hopes, and loose your labour.

Lance. Honest friend, I haue not any such thing to him,
I come to speake with him about other matters.

Fath. For my maister syr hath set down his resolution,
Either to redeeme his honour, or leaue his life behind him.

Lance. My friend I doe not know any quarrell, touching

The London Prodigall.

Thy maister or any other person, my businesse is of a different nature to him, and I prethee so tell him.

Fath. For howsoeuer the Deuenshire man is, my maisters Mind is bloody: thats a round O,
And therefore syr, intreatie is but vaine.

Lance. I haue no such thing to him, I tell thee once againe.

Fath. I will then so signifie to him. *(Exit Father.)*

Lance. A syrreha, I see this matter is hotly carried,
But ile labour to dissuade him from it, *(Enter Flowerdale.)*
Good morrow maister *Flowerdale*.

Flow. Good morrow good syr *Lancelot*, good morrowe maister *Weathercocke*.

By my troath gentlemen, I haue bene a reading ouer
Nick Machinill, I find him

Good to be known, not to be followed :

A pestilent humane fellow, I haue made

Certaine anations of him such as they be:

And how ist syr *Lancelot*? ha? how ist?

A mad world, men cannot liue quiet in it. *(Iarre)*

Lance. Maister *Flowerdale*, I doe vnderstand there is some
Betweene the Deuenshyre man and you.

Fath. They syr: they are good friends as can be.

Flow. Who maister *Oluer* and *Pas* good friends as can be.

Lance. It is a kind of safetie in you to denie it, and a generous
Silence, which too few are indued withall: But syr, such
A thing I heare, and I could wish it other wise.

Flow. No such thing syr *Lancelot*, a my reputation,
As I am an honest man.

Lance. Now I doe beleue you then, if you doe
Engage your reputation there is none.

Flow. Nay I doe not engage my reputation there is not,
You shall not bind me to any condition of hardnesse:
But if there be any thing betweene vs, then there is,
If there be not, then there is not: be or be not, all is one.

Lance. I doe perceine by this, that there is something be-
twene you, and I am very sorie for it.

Flow. You may be deceimed syr *Lancelot*, the *Italian*
Hath a prene saying, *Questo* I haue forgot it too,
Tis out of my head, but in my translation

The London Prodigall.

Fit hold thus, thou hast a friend, keepe him, (If a foe, trip him,

Lance. Come, I doe see by this there is somewhat betweene
And before God I could wish it other wise. you,

Flow. Well what is betweene vs, can hardly be altered:

Syr Lancelot, I am to ride forth to morrow,
That way which I must ride, no man must denie
Me the Sunne, I would not by any particular man,
Be denied common and generall passage. If any one
Saith *Flowerdale*, thou passest not this way:
My answer is, I must either on or returne,
But returne is not my word, I must on:
If I cannot, then make my way, nature
Hath done the last for me, and thers the fine.

Lance. Maister *Flowerdale*, euery man hath one tongue,
And two eares, nature in her building,
Is a most curious worke-maister.

Flow. That is as much to say, a man should heare more
Then he should speake.

Lance. You say true, and indeed I haue heard more,
Then at this time I will speake.

Flow. You say well,

Lance. Slanders are more common then troathes maister
But prooffe is the rule for both. (*Flowerdales*)

Flow. You say true, what doe you call him
Hath it there in his third cantont

Lance. I haue heard you haue bin wild: I haue beleeued it.

Flow. T was fit, twas necessarie,

Lance. But I haue seene somewhat of late in you,
That hath confirmed in me an opinion of
Goodnesse toward you.

Flow. Yfaith syr, I am shure I neuer did you harme:
Some good I haue done, either to you or yours,
I am shure you know not, neither is it my will you should.

Lance. I your will syr,

Flow. I my will syr: foot doe you know ought of my will?
Begod and you doe syr, I am abused.

Lance. Goe maister *Flowerdale*, what I know, I know:
And know you thus much out of my knowledge,
That I truly loue you. For my daughter,

The London Prodigall.

She yours. And if you like a marriage better
Then a brayle, all quirks of reputation set aside, goe with me
presently: And where you should fight a bloodie battle, you
shall be married to a lovely Ladie.

Flow. Nay but syr *Lancelot*.

Lance. If you will not imbrace my offer, yet assure your self
thus much, I will haue order to hinder your incounter.

Flow. Nay but heare me syr *Lancelot*.

Lance. Nay stand not you vpon imputatiue honour,
Tis mererely vnfound, vñ profitable, and idle:
Inferences your busines is to wedde my daughter, therefore
giue me your present word to doe it, ile goe and provide the
maid, therefore giue mee your present resolution, either now
(or neuer.

Flow. Will you so put me too ite

Luce. I afore God, either take me now, or take me neuer,
Else what I thought should be our match, shal be our parting,
So fare you well for euer.

Flow. Stay: fall out, what may fall, my loue
Is aboue all: I will come.

Lance. I expect you, and so fare you well,

(Exit syr Lancelot.

Fath. Now syr, how shall we doe for wedding apparell:

Flow. By the masse thats true: now helpe *Kyt*,
The marriage ended, weele make amendes for all.

Fath. Well no more, prepare you for your bride,
We will not want for cloathes, what so ere betide.

Flow. And thou shalt see, when once I haue my dower,
In mirth weele spend,
Full many a merry hower:

As for this wench, I not regard a pin,
It is her gold I must bring my pleasures in.

Fath. Ist possible, he hath his second living,
Forfaking God, himselfe to the diuel giuing:
But that I knew his mother firme and chaste,
My heart would say, my hed she had disgrast:
Else would I sweare, he neuer was my sonne,
But her faire mind, so fowle a deed did haue.

Enter

The London Prodigall.

Enter Vnck.

Vnck. How now brother, how do you find your sonne?

Faib. O brother, heedlesse as a libertine,
Euen growne a maister in the schoole of vice,
One that doth nothing, but inuent descent:
For all the day he humours vp and downe,
How he the next day might deceiue his friend,
He thinkes of nothing but the present time:
For one groat readie down, heele pay a shilling,
But then the lender must needes stay for it.
When I was young, I had the scope of youth,
Both wild, and wanton, carelesse and desperate:
But such mad straines, as hee's posselt withall,
I thought it wonder for to dreame vpon.

Vnck. I told you so, but you would not beleue it.

Faib. Well I haue found it, but one thing comforts me
Brother, to morrow hee's to be married
To beautilous *Luce*, syr *Lanceolus Sparckes* daughter.

Vnck. Ist possible

Faib. Tis true, and thus I meane to curbe him,
This day brother, I will you shall arrest him:
If any thing will tame him, it must be that,
For he is ranck in mischief, chained to a life,
That will increase his shame, and kill his wife.

Vnck. What, arrest him on his wedding day?
That were vnchristian, and an vnhumane part:
How many couple euen for that very day,
Hath purchast 7. yeares sorrow afterward?
Forbeare him then to day, doe it to morrow,
And this day mingle not his ioy with sorrow.

Faib. Brother I haue it done this very day,
And in the viewe of all, as he comes from Church:
Doe but obserue the course that he will take,
Vpon my life he will forswear the debt:
And for weele haue the summe shall not be slight,
Say that he owes you nere three thousand pound:
Good brotier let be done immediately.

The London Prodigall.

To make an a volowten meryment of it.
Daf. O tis too true. Here comes his Vncle.

Enter Flowerdale, Sheriffe, Officers.

Uncle, God morrow sir *Arthur*, good morrow *M. Oliver*,

Oly. God and good morne *M. Flowerdale*. I pray you tellen
 Is your scoundrell kinsman married? (vs,

Artb. M. Oliver, call him what you will, but hee is maryed
 To sir *Lancelots* daughter here.

Uncle. Sir *Arthur*, vnto hee?

Oly. I ha the olde vellow zarued me thick trickes,
 Why man he was a promise, chil chud a had her,
 Is a zitch a yoke, chill looke to his water che vor him.

Uncle. The musicke playes, they are comming from the
 Church.

Sheriffe doe your Office: fellowes, stand stoutly too it.

Enter all to the Wedding.

Oly. God giue you ioy, as the old zaid Prouerbe is, and
 some zorrow among. You met vs well, did you not?

Lance. Nay be not angry sir, the fault is in me,
 I haue done all the wrong, kept him from comming to the
 field to you, as I might sir, for I am a Iustice, and sworne to
 keepe the peace;

Wbe. I marry is he sir, a very Iustice, and sworne to keepe
 the peace, you must not disturbe the weddings.

Lance. Nay, neuer frowne nor storme sir, if you doe,
 Ile haue an order taken for you.

Oly. Well, Well, chill be quiet.

Wbe. *M. Flowerdale*, sir *Lancelot*, looke you who here is?
M. Flowerdale.

Lance. *M. Flowerdale*, welcome with all my heart.

Flow. Vncle, this is the yfaith: Maister Vnder-Sheriffe
 Arrest me at whose sute? draw *Kit*.

Unc. At my sute sir

Lance. Why whats the matter *M. Flowerdale*?

Unc. This is the matter sir, this vnthrift here
 Hath cozened you, and hath had of me,
 In seuerall summes three thousand pound.

Flow. Why Vncle, Vncle:

Facte

Unck. Cousen, cousen, you haue vnckled me,
And if you be not fraid, youle proue
A counfener vnto all that know you.

Lance. Why syr, suppose he be to you in debt
Ten thousand pound, his state to me appeare,
To be at least three thousand by the yeare.

Vnck. O syr, I was too late informed of that plot,
How that he went about to counsen you:
And formde a will, and sent it to your good
Friend there maister *Weathercocke*, in which was
Nothing true, but brags and lyes,

Lance. Ha, hath he not such Lordships, landes, and shippes?

Vnck. Not worth a groat, not worth a halfe pence.

Lance. I pray tell vs true, be plain young *Flowerdew*.

Flow. My vnckle here mad, and disposed to dome wrong,
But heer's my man, an honest fellow.
By the lord, and of good credit, knowes all is true.

Faith. Not I syr, I am too old to lye, I rather know
You forge a will, where euery line you writ,
You studied where to coate your landes might lye.

Wea. And I prethee, where be thy honest friends?

Faith. Yfaith no where syr, for he hath none at all.

Wea. Benedicite, we are ore wretched I, beleeue.

Lance. I am counfend, and my hopefulst child vndone.

Flow. You are not counfend, nor is she vndone,
They slander me, by this light they slander me:
Looke you, my vnckle heres an vsurer, and would vndoe me,
But he stand in law, do you but baile me, you shal do no more:
You brother *Cinet*, and maister *Weathercocke*, doe but
Baile me, and let me haue my marriage mony
Paid me, and wee let ride downe, and there your owne
Eyes shall see, how my poore tenants there wil welcome me.
You shall but baile me, you shall doe no more,
And you greedy goat, their baile will serue.

Vnck. If syr, ile aske no better baile.

Lance. No syr you shall not take my baile, nor his,
Nor my sonne *Cinet*, ile not be cheated I;
Shreue take your prisoner, ile not deale with him:

Lers Vncle make false dice with his false bones,
I will not haue to doe with him: mocked, guld, & wrongd.
Come Girle, though it be late it falls out well,
Thou shalt not liue with him in beggers hell.

Luc. He is my husband, & hie heauen doth know,
With what vnwillingnesse I went to Church,
But you inforced me, you compelled me too it :
The holy Church-man pronounced these words but now,
I must not leaue my husband in distresse :
Now I must comfort him, not goe with you.

Lanc. Comfort a cozoner? on my curse forsake him.

Luc. This day you caused me on your curse to take him:

Doe not I pray my greiued soule oppresse,

God knowes my heart doth bleed at his distresse. (match,

Lanc. O M. Weathercock, I must confesse I forced her to this
Led with opinion his false will was true.

Wea. A, he hath ouer-reached me too,

| / state.

Lanc. She might haue liued like *Deia*, in a happie Virgins

Deia, Father be patient, sorrow comes too late.

Lance. And on her knees she begd & did entreat,

If she must needs taste a sad marriage life,

She craued to be sir *Arthur Greene-shields* wife,

Ar. You haue done her & me the greater wrong.

Lanc. O take her yet, Arthur. Not I.

Lanc. Or, M. *Obner*, except my child, and halfe my wealth
is yours. Oly. No sir, chil breake no Lawes.

Luc. Neuer feare, she will not trouble you.

Deia, Yet sister in this passion doe not runne headlong to
confusion. You may affect him, though not follow him.

Frank, Doe sister, hang him, let him goe.

Wea. Doe faith Mistresse *Luce*, leaue him.

Luc. You are three grosse fooles, let me alone,
I sweare ile liue with him in all mone.

Oly. But an he haue his legges at libertie, I

Cham averd hee will neuer liue with you,

The London Prodigall.

Art. But hee is now in hucksters handling for running

Lanc. Huswife, you heare how you and I am wrongd, (away.

And if you will redresse it yet you may :

But if you stand on tearmes to follow him,

Neuer come neere my sight nor looke on me,

Call me not father, looke not for a groat,

For all thy portion I wil this day giue

Vnto thy sister *Frances*.

Fran. How say you to that *Tom*, I shall haue a good deale,

Besides ile be a good wifer and a good wife

Is a good thing, I can tell.

Cin. Peace *Franck*, I would be sorry to see thy sister

Call away, as I am a Gentleman,

Lance. What, are you yet resolued?

Lanc. Yes, I am resolued.

Lanc. Come then away, or now, or neuer come.

Lanc. This way I turne, goe you vnto your feast,

And I to weepe, that am with griefe oppressd.

Lanc. For euer flie my sight : come gentlemen

Lets in, ile helpe you to far better wifes then her.

Deu. vpon my blessing talke not too her,

Bace Baggage, in such hast to beggery?

Unc. Sheriffe take your prisoner to your charge.

Flo. Vncle, be-god you haue vsd me very hardly,

By my troth, vpon my wedding day.

*Exit all : young Flowerdale, his father, Vncle,
Sheriffe, and Officers.*

Lanc. O *M. Flowerdale*, but heare me speake,

Stay but a little while good *M. Sheriffe*,

If not for him, for my sake pitie him;

Good syr stop not your eares at my complaint,

My voyce growes weake, for womens words are faint.

Flem. Looke you Vncle, she kneales to you.

Vncle.

The London Prodigall.

Vnc. Faire maid, for you, I loue you with my heart,
And greue sweet soule thy fortune is so bad,
That thou shouldst match with such a gracelesse
Go to thy father, thinke not ypon him, (Youth,
Whom hell hath marked to be the sonne of shame.

Luc. Impute his wilnesse syr, vnto his youth,
And thinke that now is the time he doth repent
Alas, what good or gayne can you receiue,
To imprison him that nothing hath to pay?
And where nought is, the king doth lose his due,
O pittie him as God shall pittie you.

Vnc. Ladie, I know his humours all too well,
And nothing in the world can doe him good,
But miserie it selfe to chaine him with,

Luc. Say that your debts were paid, then is he free?

Vnc. I virgin, that being answered, I haue done,
But to him that is all as impossible,
As / to scale the hie Piramydie.
Sheriffe take your prisoner, Maiden fare thee well.

Luc. O goe not yet, good M. Flowerdale:
Take my word for the debt, my word, my bond.

Flow. I by God *Vncle*, and my bond too.

Luc. Alas, I n ere ought nothing but I paid it,
And I can worke, alas he can doe nothing:
I haue some friends perhaps will pittie me,
His chiefeest friends doe seeke his miserie,
All that I can, or beg, get, or receiue,
Shall be for you: O doe not turne away,
Me thinks within a face so reuerent,
So well experienced in this tottering world,
Should haue some feeling of a maidens grieve:
For my sake; his fathers, and your brothers sake,
I for your soules sake that doth hope for ioy,
Pittie my state: do not two soules destroy.

Vnc. Faire maid stand vp, not in regard of him,
But in pittie of thy haplesse choise,

The London Prodigall.

Idoe release him, M. Sheriffe I thanke you:
And officers there is for you to drinke.
Here maide take this monie, there is a 100. Angels,
And for I will be sure he shall not haue it,
Here Kester take it you, and vse it sparingly,
But let not her haue any want at all.
Dry your eyes Neece, doe not too much lament
For him, whose life hath beene in royt spent:
If well he vseth thee, he gets him friends,
• If ill, a shamefull end on him depends.

Exit Vncle.

Flow. A plague goe with you for an old fornicator:
Come *Kyt* the monie, come honest *Kyt*.

Fath. Nay by my faith sir, you shall pardon me.

Flow. And why sir pardon you? giue me the mony
You old Rascall, or I shall make you.

Luc. Pray hold your hands, giue it him honest friend.

Fath. If you be so content, with all my heart.

Flow. Content syr, sblood shee shall be content
Whether she will or no. A rattle baby come to follow me:
Goe get you gone to the greasie chuffe your father,
Bring me your dowrie, or neuer looke on me.

Fath. Syr she hath forsooke her father, and all her friends for
you.

Flow. Hang thee, her friends and father altogether.

Fath. Yet part with something to prouide her lodging.

Flow. Yes, I meane to part with her and you, but if I part with
one Angel, hang me at a poste. Ile rather throwe them at a
east at Dice, as I haue done a thousand of their fellowes.

Fath. Nay then I will be plaine degenerate boy,
Thou hadst a Father would haue beene a shamed.

Flow. My father was an Assle, an old Assle.

Fath. Thy father? proud lycentious villaine:
What are you at your foyles, ile foyle with you.

Luc. Good sir forbear him.

Fath.

The London Prodigall.

Prob. Did not this whining woman hang on me,
Ide teach thee what it was to abuse thy father:
Goe hang, beg, starue, dice, game, that when all is gone
Thou maist after dispaire and hang thy selfe.

Luce. O doe not curse him.

Fath. I doe not curse him, and to pray for him were vaine,
It grieues me that he beares his father name.

Flow. Well you old rascall, I shall meet with you,
Syrha get you gone, I will not strip the liuery
Ouer your cares, because you paid for it: (not
But do not vse my name, syrha doe you heare? looke you doe
Vse my name, you were best.

Fath. Pay me the twentie pound then, that I lent you,
Or giue me securitie, when I may haue it. none,

Flow. Ile pay thee not a penny, and for securitie, ile giue thee
Minckins looke you doe not follow me, looke you doe not:
If you doe begger, I shall slit your nose.

Luce. Alas what shall I doe?

Flow. Why turne whore, thats a good trade,
And so perhaps ile see thee now and then.

Exit Flowerdale.

Luce. Alas the day that euer I was borne,

Fath. Sweete mistresse doe not weepe, ile sticke to you.

Luce. Alas my friend, I know not what to do,
My father and my friends, they haue despised me:
And I a wretched maid, thus cast away,
Knowes neither where to goe, nor what to say.

Fath. It grieues me at the soule, to see her teares
Thus staine the crimson roses of her cheekes:
Lady take comfort, doe not mourne in vaine,
I haue a little living in this towne,
The which I thinke comes to a hundred pound,
All that and more shall be at your dispose,
Ile strait goe helpe you to some strange disguise,
And place you in a seruice in this towne:

The London Prodigall.

Where you shal know ail, yet your selfe vnknowne:
Come greue no more, where no helpe can be had,
Weepe not for him, that is more worfe then bad.

Luce. I thanke you syr.

Enter syr Lancelot, maister Weathercocke and them.

Oli. Well, cha a bin zerued many a sluttish trickie,
But such a lerripoope as thick ych was nere a sarued.

Lance. Son *Cinet*, daughter *Frances*, beare with me,
You see how I am pressed downe with inward grieve,
About that lucklesse gyrlie, your sister *Luce*:
But tis fallen out with me, as with many families beside,
They are most unhappie, that are most beloued.

Cin. Father tis so, tis euen fallen out so,
But what remedie, set hand to your heart, and let it passe:
Here is your daughter *Frances* and I, and weele not say,
Weele bring forth as wittie children, but as prettie
Children as euer she was: tho she had the pricke
And praise for a prettie wench: But father, done is
The monse, youle come?

Lance. I sonne *Cinet*, ile come.

Cin. And you maister *Oliuer*?

Oli. I, for che a vext out this veast, chill see if a gan
Make a better veast there.

Cin. And you syr *Arthur*?

Ar. I syr, although my heart be full,
Ile be a partner at your wedding feast.

Cin. And welcome all indeed, and welcome, come *Francke*
(are you readiet

Fran. Ieshue how hastie these husbands are, I pray father,
Pray to God to blesse me.

Lance. God blesse thee, and I doe: God make thee wise,
Send you both ioy, I wish it with wet eyes.

Fran. But



The London Prodigall.

Fran. But Father, shall not my sister *Delia* goe along with
She is excellent good at cookery and such things. (vs?)

Lance. Yes mary shall she: *Delia*, make you ready.

Delia. I am ready syr, I will first goe to *Greene-witch*,
From thence to my cousen *Chesterfelds*, and so to *London*.

Cin. It shall suffice good sister *Delia*, it shall suffice,
But faile vs not good sister, giue order to cookes, and others,
For I would not haue my sweet *Francke*
To soyle her fingers.

Fran. No by my troath not I, a gentlewoman, and a married
Gentlewoman too, to be companions to-cookes,
And kitchin-boyes, not I, y faith; I scorne that.

Cin. Why I doe not meane thou shalt sweete heart,
Thou seest I doe not goe about it: well farewell too: (too?)
You, Gods pittie *M. Weathercocke*, we shal haue your cōpany

Wea. Withall my heart, for I loue good cheare,

Cin. Well, God be with you all, come *Francke*.

Fran. God be with you father, God be with you syr *Arthur*,
Maister *Oluer*, and maister *Weathercocke*, sister, God be with
you all: God be with you father, God be with you euery one.

Wea. Why how now syr *Arthur*? all a mort maister *Oluer*,
(how now man?)

Cheerely syr *Lancelot*, and merily say,
Who can hold that will away.

Lance. If shee is gone indeed, poore giule vndone,
But when theyle be selfewilled, children must sinait.

Ar. But syr, that she is wronged, you are the chiefest cause,
Therefore tis reason, you redresse her wrong.

Wen. Indeed you must syr *Lancelot*, you must.

Lance. Must? who can compell me maister *Weathercocke*?
I hope I may doe what I list.

Wea. I grant you may, you may doe what you list.

Ol. Nay, but and you be well euisen, it were not good
By this vrapolneisse, and vrowardnesse, to cast away
As pretty adowflabell, as am should chance to see

The London Prodigall.

In a Summers day, chil tell you what chall doe,
Chil goe spye vp and downe the towne, and see if I
Can heare any tale or dydings of her,
And take her away from thicke a messell, vor cham
A shured, heele but bring her to the spoile,
And so var you well, we shall meete at your sonne *Cinss.*

Lance. I thanke you syr, I take it very kindly.

Ary. To find her out, ile spend my dearest blood.

Exit both.

So well I loued her, to affect her good.

Lance. O maister *Weathercocke*, what hap had I, to force
(my daughter

From maister *Oliner*, and this good knight?
To one that hath no goodnesse in his thought.

Wea. All lucke, but what remedie.

Lance. Yes I haue almost deuised a remedy,
Young *Flowerdale*, is shure a prisoner.

Wea. Shure, nothing more shure.

Lance. And yet perhaps his Vnckle hath released him.

Wea. It may be very like, no doubt he hath.

Lance. Well if he be in prison, ile haue warrants
To tache my daughter till the lawe be tried,
For I will shue him vpon couzonage.

Wea. Mary may you, and ouerthrow him toos

Lance. Nay thats not so, I may chance be scost,
And sentence past with him.

Wea. Beleene me so he may; therefore take heede.

Lance. Well howsoeuer, yet I will haue warrants,
In prison, or at libertie, all one!

You will helpe to serue them maister *Weathercocke*?

Exit Omnes.

Enter Flowerdale.

Floa. A plague of the diuell, the diuell take the dyce,
The dyce, and the diuell, and his damne goe together:

OF

The London Prodigall.

Of all my hundred golden angels,
I haue not left me one denier:
A poxe of come a fine, what shall I doe?
I can borrow no more of my credit:
There's not any of my acquaintance, man, nor boy,
But I haue borrowed more or lesse off:
I would I knewe where to take a good purse,
And goe cleare away, by this light ile venture for it,
Gods lid my sister *Delia*,
He rob her, by this hand,

Enter Delia, and Artichoke.

Del. I prethee *Artichoke* goe not so fast,
The weather is hot, and I am something wearie.
Art. Nay I warrant you mistress *Delia* ile not tire you
With leading, wee le goe an extreame moderate pace.

Flow. Stand, deliuer your purse.

Art. O lord, theeues, theeues,

Exit Artichoke.

Flow. Come, come, your purse ladie, your purse.

Deli. That voice I haue heard often before this time,
What brother *Flamerdale*, become a theefe?

Flow. I, a plague ont, I thanke your fater,
But sister, come, your mony, come:
What the world must find me, I am borne to liue,
Tis not a sinne to steale, when none will giue.

Deli. O God, is all grace banisht from thy heart,
Thinke of the shame that doth attend this fact.

Flow. Shame me no shames, come giue me your purse,
He bind you sister, least I faire the worse.

Deli. No, bind me not, hold there is all I haue,
And would that mony would redeeme thy shame.

Enter Oliuer, syr Arthur, and Artichoke.

Art. Theeues, theeues, theeues.

Oli. Theeues, where man? why how now mistress *Delia*,
Ha you a liked to bin a robbed?

F

Deli. No

The London Prodigall.

Delia. No maister *Oliver*, tis maister *Flowerdale*, hee did but
iest with me.

Ol. How, *Flowerdale*, that scoundrell & sirrha, you meten vs
Well, vang thee that, (charge.

Flow. Well sir, ile not meddle with you, because I haue a
Delia. Here brother *Flowerdale*, ile lend you this same mony.

Flow. I thanke you sister. (pcnny.

Ol. I wad you were ysplit, and you let the mezell haue a
But since you cannot keepe it, chil keepe it my selfe.

Ar. Tis pittie to releue him in this sort,
Who makes a triumphant life, his daily sport.

Delia. Brother, you see how all men confure you,
Farewell; and I pray God amend your life.

Oh. Come, chill bring you along, and you safe enough
From twentie such scoundrells as thick a one is,
Farewell and be hanged zyrha, as I thinke so thou
Wilt be shortly, come syr *Arthur*.

Exit all but Flowerdale.

Flow. A plague goe with you for a karsie rascall;
This Deuenshyre man I thinke is made all of porke,
His hands made onely, for to heaue vp packs;
His hart as fat and big as his face,
As differing far from all braue gallant minds
As I to serue the hogges, and drinke with hindes,
As I am very neere now: well, what remedie,
When mony, meanes, and friends, doe growe so small,
Then farewell life, and ther's an end of all. *Exit on a noise.*

*Enter Father, Luce like a Dutch Frow, Cinet, and his
wife mistresse Frances.*

Cin. By my troath god a mercie for this good *Christopher*,
I thanke thee for my maide, I like her very well,
How doest thou like her *Frances*?

Fran. In good sadnesse *Tom*, very well, excellent well,
She speakes so prettily, I pray whats your name?

Luce. My name for sooth be called *Tanikin*.

Fran. By:

The London Prodigall.

Fran. By my troath a fine name, O *Tanikin*, you are excellent for dressing one head a newe fashion.

Lucce. Me sall doe euery ting about da head.

Cin. What countriwoman is the *Kester*?

Fath. A dutch woman sir.

Cin. Why then she is outlandish, is she not?

Fath. I Syr she is. (and carest

Fran. O then thou canst tell how to helpe mee to checkes

Lucce. Yes mistresse verie vell.

Fath. Checkes and eares, why mistresse *Frances*, want you Checkes and eares? me thinks you haue very faire ones.

Fran. Thou art a foole indeed *Tom*, thou knowest what I

Cin. I, I *Kester*, tis such as they weare a their heads, (meane, I prethee *Kit* haue her in, and shewe her my house.

Fath. I will sir, come *Tanikin*.

Fran. O *Tom*, you haue not buffed me to day *Tom*.

Cin. No *Frances*, we must not kisse afore folkes,
God saue me *Francke*,

Enter Delia, and Artichoke.

See yonder my sister *Delia* is come, welcome good sister.

Fran. Welcome good sister, how do you like the tier of my

Delia. Very well sister. (heads

Cin. I am glad you're come sister *Delia* to giue order for Supper, they will be here soone.

Art. I, but if good luck had not serued, she had

Not bin here now, filching *Flowerdale* had like

To peppord vs, but for maister *Oliuer*, we had bin robbed.

Del. Peace syrrha, no more.

Fath. Robbed! by whom?

Art. Marry by none but by *Flowerdale*, he is turned theefe.

Cin. By my faith, but that is not well, but God be praised For your escape, will you draw neere sister?

Fath. Syrrha come hither, would *Flowerdale*, hee that was my maister, a robbed you, I prethee tell me true:

The London Predigall.

Arty. Yes yfaith, euen that *Flowerdale*, that was thy mai-
(sister)

Faith. Hold thee, there is a French crowne, and speake no
(more of this.)

Arty. Not I, not a word, now do I smell knauerie:
In euery purse *Flowerdale* takes, he is halfe:
And giues me this to keepe counsell, no not a word I.

Faith. Why God a mercy.

Fran. Sister looke here, I haue a new Dutch maid,
And she speakes so fine, it would doe your heart good.

Cin. How doe you like her sister?

Delia. I like your maide well.

Cin. Well deare sister, will you draw neere, and giue direc-
tions for supper, guesse will be here presently.

Delia. Yes brother, leade the way ile follow you.

Exit all but Delia and Luce.

Harke you Dutch frowe a word.

Luce. Vat is your vill wit me?

Delia. Sister *Luce*, tis not your broken language,
Nor this same habit, can disguise your face
From I that know you: pray tell me, what meanes this?

Luce. Sister, I see you know me, yet be secret:
This borrowed shape, that I haue tane vpon me,
Is but to keepe my selfe, a space vnknowne,
Both from my father, and my neerest friendes:
Vntill I see, how time will bring to passe,
The desperate course, of maister *Flowerdale*.

Delia. O hee is worse then bad, I prethee leane him,
And let not once thy heart to thinke on him.

Luce. Do not perswade me, once to such a thought,
Imagine yet, that he is worse then naught:
Yet one louers time, may all that ill vndo,
That all his former life, did run into.

Therefore

The London Prodigall.

Therefore kind sister doe not disclose my estate,

Here his heart doth turne, tis nere too late. (mind,

Dely. Well, seeing no counsell can remove your

Ile not disclose you, that art willfull blinde. (eies,

Luc, Delia, I thank you, I now must please her

My sister *Frances*, neither faire nor wise.

Exit. Owners.

Enter Flowerdale John.

Flo. On goes he that knowes no end of his iourney,

I haue passed the very vtmost bounds of shifting,

I haue no course now but to hang my selfe:

I haue liued since yesterday two a clocke, of a

Spice-cake I had at a buriall: and for drinke,

I got it at an Ale-house among Porters, such as

Will beare out a man, if he haue no mony indeed.

I meane out of their companyes, for they are men

Of good carriage. Who comes heere?

The two Conycatchers, that woun all my mony of

Aetric if thayle lend me any. (me.

Enter Dicke and Rafe.

What *M. Richard* how doe youe?

How doest thou *Rafe*? By God gentleme the world

Growes bare with me, will you do as much as lend

Me an Angel betweene you both, you know you

Won a hundred of me the other day.

Rafe. How, an Angel? God damb vs if we lost not euey

Peny, within an houre after thou wert gone.

Flo. I prethy lend me so much as will pay for my supper,

Ile pay you againe, as I am a Gentleman.

Rafe. I faith, we haue haue not a farthing, not a myte:

I wonder at it *M. Flowerdale*,

You will so carelesly vndo your selfe,

Why you will loose more mony in an houre,

The London Prodigall.

Then any honest man spend in a yeare,
For shame betake you to some honest Trade,
And liue not thus so like a Vagabond.

Exit both.

Flou. A Vagabond indeed, more villaines you:
They gaue me counsell that first cozend me:
Those Diuels first brought me to this I am,
And being thus, the first that doe me wrong.
Well, yet I haue one friend left in store,
Not farre from hence, there dwels a Cokatryce,
One that I first put in a fatten gowne,
And not a tooth that dwell within her head,
But stands me at the least in 20. pound:
Her will I visite now my coyne is gone,
And as I take it heere dwelles the Gentlewomen.
What ho, is Mistresse Apricocke within?

Enter Ruffyn.

Ruff. What sawtie Rascall is that which knocks so bold,
O, is it you? old spend-thrift, are you here?
One that is turned Cozoner about the towne:
My Mistresse saw you, and sends this word by me,
Either be packing quickly from the doore,
Or you shall haue such a greeting sent you strait,
As you will little like on, you had best be gone.

Flou. Why so, this is as it should be, being poore,
Thus art thou serued by a vile painted whoore.
Well, since thy damned crew doe so abuse thee,
Ile try of honest men, how they will vse mee.

Enter an annient Citizen.

Sir I beseech you to take compassion of a man,
One whose Fortunes haue beene better then at this instant
they seeme to be: but if I might craue of you so much little
portion, as would bring mee to my friends, I should rest
thankfull, vntill I had requited so great a curtesie.

Citizen.

The London Prodigall.

Citizen. Fie, fie, yong man, this course is very bad,
Too many such haue wee about this Cittie,
Yet for I haue not seene you in this sort,
Nor noted you to be a common begger:
Hold theres an Angel, to beare your charges,
Downe, goe to your freinds, do not on this depend,
Such bad beginnings oft haue worser ends. *Exit Cittie.*

Flow. Worser endes: nay, if it fall out
No worse then in old angels I care not,
Nay now I haue had such a fortunate beginning,
He not let a sixepennie-purse escape me;
By the Masse, here comes another.

Enter a Citizens wife with a torch before her.

God blesse you faire Mistresse;
Now would it please you gentlewoman to looke into the
wants of a poore Gentle-man, a yonger brother, I doubt not
but God will treble restore it backe againe, one that neuer
before this time demanded pennie, halfpenie, nor farthing.

Citiz. Wife. Stay *Alexander*, now by my troth a very pro-
per man, and tis great pittie: hold my friend, theres all the
monie I haue about me, a couple of shillings, and God blesse
thee.

Flow. Now God thanke you sweete Lady if you haue any
friend, or Garden-house; where you may imploy a poore
gentleman as your friend, I am yours to command in all se-
cret seruice.

Citiz. I thanke you good friend, I prethy let me see that a-
gaine, I gaue thee, there is one of them a brasse shilling, giue
me them, and here is halfe a crowne in gold. *He giues it her.*
Nowe out vpon thee Rascall, secret seruice: what dost
thou make of mee? it were a good deede to haue thee whipt:
now I haue my money againe, ile see thee hanged before
I giue thee a pennie: secret seruice: on good *Alexander.*

Exit both.

Flow. This

The London Prodigall.

Flow. This is villanous lucke, I perceiue dishonestie,
Will not thrive: here comes more, God forgie mee,

Sir *Arthur*, and M. *Oliver*, afore God, Ile speake to them,
God saue you Sir *Arthur*: God saue you M. *Oliver*.

Enter Sir Arthur, and M. Oliver.

Oh. Byn you there *Zyrrha*, come will you y taken your selfe
To your tooles, Coyttrells?

Flow. Nay, M. *Oliver*, Ile not fight with you,
Alas sir you know it was not my dooings,
It was onely a plot to get Sir *Lancelots* daughter:
By God, I neuer meant you harme.

Oh. And where is the Gentle-woman thy wife, Mezell?
Where is shee, *Zyrrha*, ha?

Flow. By my troth M. *Oliver*, sicke, very sicke;
And God is my Iudge, I know not what meanes to make for
her, good Gentlewoman.

Oh. Tell me true, is she sicke: tell me true ich wife thee?

Flow. Yes faith, I tell you true: M. *Oliver*, if you would
doe mee the small kindnesse, but to lend me fortie shillings:
So God helpe me I will pay you so soone as my abilitie shall
make me able, as I am a gentleman.

Oh. Well thou zaist thy wife is zicke: hold, thers vortie
shillings, giued it to thy wife, looke thou giue it her; or I shall
zo veze thee, thou wert not so vezed this zeuen ycare, looke
too it.

Art. Yfaith M. *Oliver*, it is in vaine
To giue to him that neuer thinkes of her.

Oh. Well, would che could y mind it. (man.

Flow. I tell you true, sir *Arthur*, as I am a gentle;

Oh. Well fare you well *Zyrrha*: come sir *Arthur*.

Exit both.

Flow. By the Lord this is excellent, from you wind I see
Five golden Angels compast in an houre,
If this trade hold, ile neuer seeke a new.

Welcome

In the LONDON Froegall.

Welcome sweet gold and beggery adue.

Enter Vnckle and Father.

Unc. See *Kester* if you can find the house.

Flow. Whose here, my Vnckle, and my man *Kester*?

By the masse tis they.

How doe you Vnckle, how dost thou *Kester*?

By my troath Vnckle, you must needes lend

Me some mony, the poore gentlewoman

My wife, so God helpe me, is verie sicke,

I was robbed of the hundred angels

You gaue me, they are gone.

Unc. If they are gone indeed, come *Kester* away.

Flow. Nay Vnckle, do you heare? good Vnckle.

Unc. Out hypocrite, I will not heare thee speake,
Come leaue him *Kester*.

Flow. *Kester*, honest *Kester*.

Fath. Syr, I haue nought to say to you,
Open the doore to my kin, thou hadst best
Lockt fast, for theres a false knaue without.

Flow. you are an old lying Rascall,
So you are.

Exit both.

Enter Luce.

Luce. Vatis de matter, Vat be you yonker?

Flow. By this light a Dutch Froe, they say they are calde
Kind, by this light ile try her.

Luce. Vat bin you yonker, why doe you not speake?

Flow. By my troath sweet heart, a poore gentleman that
would desire of you, if it stand with your liking, the bountie of
your purse.

Enter father.

Luce. O here God, so young an armine.

Flow. Armine sweet-heart, I know not what you meane by
that, but I am almost a begger.

Luce. Are you not a married man, vere bin your wife?
Here is all I haue, take dis.

Flow. What gold young Froe? this is braue.

Fath. If he haue any grace, heele now repent,

G

Luce. Why

Luce. Why speake you not, were be your wife?

Flow. Dead, dead, shees dead, tis she hath vndone me,
Spent me all I had, and kept rascalls vnder mine nose to braue
(me.

Luce. Did you vse her yell?

Flow. Vse her, theres neuer a gentlewoman in *England*
could be better vsed then I did her, I could but Coatch her,
her diet stood me in fortie pound a moneth, but shee is dead
and in her graue, my cares are buried.

Luce. Indeed dat was not scone.

Fath. He is turned more diuell then he was before.

Flow. Thou doest belong to maister *Ciuet* here, doest thou

Luce. Yes me doe. (not:

Flow. Why theres it, theres not a handfull of plate
But belongs to me, Gods my Iudge:

If I had but such a wench as thou art,

Theres neuer a man in *England* would make more.

Of her, then I would doe, to she had any stocke.

They call within:

O why *Tanikin*.

Luce. Stay one doth call, I shall come by and by againe.

Flow. By this hand, this Dutch wench is in loue with me,
Were it not admirall to make her steale.

All *Ciuets* Plate, and runne away.

Fath. Twere beastly. O maister *Flowerdale*,
Haue you no feare of God, nor conscience:

What doe you meane, by this vilde course you take?

Flow. What doe I meane, why to liue, that I meane.

Fath. To liue in this sort, sie vpon the course,
Your life doth show, you are a verie coward.

Flow. A coward, I pray in what?

Fath. Why you will borrow sixpence of a boy.

Flow. Snailes is there such cowardice in that, I dare
Borrow it of a man, I and of the tallest man

In *England*, if he will lend it me,

Let me borrowe it how I can, and let them come by it how
they dare.

And

The London Prodigall.

And it is well kowne, I might a rid out a hundred times
If I would: so I might.

Fath. It was not want of will, but cowardice,
There is none that lends to you, but know they
And what is that but onely stealth in you, (gaine:
Delia might hang you now, did not her heart
Take pittie of you for her sisters sake.
Goe get you hence, least lingering here you stay,
You fall into their hands you looke not for.

Flaw. He tarie here, till the Dutch Froe
Comes, if all the diuels in hell were here.

Exit. Father.

*Enter syr Lancelot, maister Weathercocke, and
Artieboake.*

Luce. Where is the doore, are we not past it *Artieboake?*

Arty. Bith masse heres one, ile aske him, doe you heare sir?
What are you so proud? doe you heare, which is the way
To maister *Cinet*'s house? what will you not speake?
O me, this is filching *Flawerdale.*

Lance. O wonderfull, is this leaude villaine here?
O you cheating Roague, you cut-purse conicatcher,
VVhat ditch you villaine, is my daughters grauce?
A cozening rascall, that must make a will,
Take on him that strict habit, very that:
VVhen he should turne to angell, a dying grace,
He father in lawe you syr, ile make a will,
Speake villaine, wheres my daughter?
Poysoned I warrant you, or knocked a the head: will,
And to abuse good maister *Weathercocke*, with his forged
And maister *Weathercocke*, to make my grounded resolution,
Then to abuse the *Deuenshyre* gentlemen:
Goe, away with him to prison.

Flaw. VVherefore to prison? syr I will not goe.

*Enter maister Cinet, his wife, Oliner, syr Artbur,
Father, and Vnckle Delia.*

The London Prodigall.

Luce. O heeres his Vnckle, welcome gentlemen, welcome
Such a cozoner gentlemen, a murderer too (all,
For any thing I know, my daughter is missing:
Hath bin looked for, cannot be found, a vild ypon thee,
Unc. He is my kinsman, altho his life be vilde,
Therefore in Godsname, doe with him what you will.

Lance. Marrie to prison.

Flow. Wherefore to prison? snickvp, I owe you nothing.

Lance. Bring forth my daughter then; away with him.

Flow. Goe seeke your daughter, what doe you lay to my

Lance. Suspition of murder, goe away with him. (charge,

Flow. Murder your dogs, I murder your daughter,

Come Vnckle, I know youle baile me.

Unc. Not I, were there no more,

Then I the Iaylor, thou the prisoner.

Lance. Goe away with him.

Enter Luce like a Frowe:

Luce. O my life here, where will you ha de man?
Vat ha de younker done?

Wes. Woman he hath kild his wife.

Luce. His wife, dat is not good, dat is not seene.

Lance. Hang not vpon him huswife, if you doe ile lay yon
(by him.

Luce. Haue me no, and or way doe you haue him,
He tell me dat he loue me hartily.

Fran. Lead away my maide to prison, why *Tom* will you
(suffer that?

Cis. No by your leaue father, she is no vagrant:
She is my wines chamber maid, & as true as the skin between
any mans browes here.

Lance. Goe too, you're both fooles: sonne *Cines*,
Of my life this is a plot,
Some stragling counterfait preferd to you:
No doubt to rob you of your plate and Jewels,
He haue you led away to prison trull.

Luce. I am no trull, neither outlandish Frowe,
Nor he, uer I shall to the prison goe:
Know you me now? nay neuer stand amazed.

Father,

The London Prodigall.

Father I know I haue offended you,
And tho that dutie wills me bend my knees
To you in dutie and obedience:
Yet this wayes doe I turne, and to him yeeld
My loue, my dutie and my humblenesse.

Lanc. Bastard in nature, kneele to such a slaue?

Luce. O M. *Father* doe, if too much grieue
Haue not stop't vp the organs of your voyce,
Then speake to her that is thy faithfull wife,
Or doth contempt of me, thus tie thy tongue:
Turne not away, I am no *Bohyope*,
No wanton *Cressed*, nor a shaming *Hellen*:
But rather one made wretched by thy losse.
What turnst thou still from mee? O then
I gesse thee wofullst among haplesse men.

Flow. I am indeed wise, wonder among wiues!
Thy chastitie and vertue hath infused
Another soule in mee, red with defame,
For in my blushing cheekes is seene my shame.

Lanc. Out Hypocrite, I charge thee trust him not.

Luce. Not trust him, by hopes after blisse,
I know no sorrow can be compar'd to his.

Lan. Well since thou weart ordain'd to beggery,
Follow thy fortune, I desie thee *L*.

Oh. Y wood che were so well ydous'd as was euer white
cloth in a tocking mill, and chea ha not made me weepe.

Fath. If he hath any grace heele now repent.

Art. It moues my heart.

Wes. By my troth I must weepe, I can not chuse.

Uncle. None but a beast would such a maide misuse.

Flow. Content thy selfe, I hope to win his fauour,
And to redeeme my reputation lost,
And Gentlemen belecue me, I beseech you,
I hope your eyes shall behold such change,
As shall deceiue your expectation.

Oh. I would che were ysplit now, but che beleue him.

Lante. How, beleue him? *Wes.* By the mackins, I doe.

Lance. What doe you thinke that ere he will haue grace?

The London Prodigall.

Wea. By my faith it will goe hard.

Oh. Well che vorye he is changed: and *M. Flowerdale*, in hope you been so, hold theres vortie pound toward your zetting vp: what bee not ashamed, vang it man, vang it, bee a good husband, louen your wife; and you shall not want for vortie more, I che vor thee.

Arth. My meanes are little, but if youle follow
I will instruct you in my ablest power: (me,
But to your wife I giue this Diamond,
And proue true Dimond faire in all your life.

Flow. Thankes good sir *Arthur*, *M. Omer*,
You being myemie, and growne so kind,
Bindes mee in all indeuour to restore.

Oh. What, restore me, no restoring man,
I haue vortie pound more for *Luce*, here vang it:
Youth chil deue *London* els, what do not thinke me
A Mezel or a Scoundrell to throw away my money, che haue
a hundred pound more to pace of any good spotation: I hope
your vnder and your vncle here wil vollow my zamples.
Vncle. You haue gest right of me, if he leaue of this course of
life, he shall be mine heire.

Lau. But he shall neuer get a groat of me,
A Cozoner, a deceiver, one that kild his painefull
Father, honest Gentleman that passed the fearefull
Danger of the sea, to get him liuing and maintaine

Wea. What hath he kild his father? (him braue.

Lance. I sir, with conceit of his vild courfes.

Fath. Sir, you are misinformed. (selfe.

Lanc. Why shou old knaue, thou toldst me so thy

Fa. I wrong'd him then: and toward my M. stock,
Thers 20 Nobles for to make amends.

Fla. No *Kester*, I haue troubled thee, and wrong thee
What thou in loue giues, I in loue restore. (more,

Fra. Ha, ha, sister, there you playd bo-peepe with
Tom, What shall I giue her toward household?

Sister *Delia*, shall I giue her my *Fanne*?

Dei. You were best aske your husband. *Fra.* Shal I *Tom*?

Quet. I do *Franck* ile by thee a new one, with a longer handle.

Franck.

Frank. A russet one *Frank.* *Cini.* I with russet feathers.

Fran. Here sister, theres my Fanne toward household, to

Luce. I thanke you sister. (keepe you warme.

Wea. Why this is well, and toward faire *Luces* stocke, heres
fortie shillings: and fortie good shillings more, Ile giue her
marrie. Come sir *Lancelot*, I must haue you friends.

Lance. Not I, all this is counterfeit,
He will consume it, were it a Million.

Fath. Sir, what is your daughters dower worth?

Lance. Had she been married to an honest man,
It had beene better then a thousand pound.

Fath. Pay it him, and ile giue you my bond;
To make her ioynter better worth then three.

Lance. Your bond sir, why what are you?

Fath. One whose word in London tho I say it,
Will passe there for as much as yours. (man?

Lans. VVear not thou late that vnthrifts seruings

Fath. Looke on me better, now my scarre is off.
Nere muse man at this metamorphosie.

Lance. M. *Flowerdale.*

Flow. My father, O I shame to looke on him.
Pardon deare father the follyes that are past.

Fa. Sonne, sonne I doe, and ioy at this thy change,
And applaud thy fortune in this vertuous maide,
Whom heauen hath sent to thee to saue thy soule.

Luc. This addeth ioy to ioy, hie heauen be prais'd.

Wea. M. *Flowerdale*, welcome frō death, good M. *Flowerdale*.
Twas sed so here, twas sed so here good faith.

Fath. I caused that rumour to be spred my selfe,
Because ide see the humours of my sonne,
Which to relate the circumstance is needlesse:

And sirra see you runne no more into that same diseaset
For he thats once cured of that maladic,

Of Ryot, Swearing, Drunkennes, and Pride,
And falles againe into the like distresse,

That feur is deadly, doth till death indure:
Such men die mad as of a callenture.

Flow. Heaven helping me, ile hate the course as hell.

Vnde.

Unc. Say it and do it Cozen, all is well. (man,

Lanc. Wel being in hope youle proue an honest

I take you to my fauour brother *Flowerdale*,

Welcome with all my heart: I see your care

Hath brought these acts to this conclusion,

And I am glad of it, come lets in and feast.

Ory. Nay zoft you awhile, you promised to make

Sir *Arthur* and me amends, here is your wisest

Daughter, see which ans sheele haue. (hers.

Lanc. A Gods name, you haue my good will, get

Oly. How say you then Damsell, tyters hate?

Delia. I sir, am yours;

Oly. Why, then send for a Vicar, and chil haue it
Dispatched in a trice so chill,

Delia. Pardon me sir, I meane I am yours,

In loue, in dutie: and affection.

But not to loue as wife, shall neere be said,

Delia was buried married, but a mayd.

Arth. Doe not condemne your selfe for euer

Virtuous faire, you were borne to loue. (it

Oly. Why you say true sir *Arthur* she was ybere to

So well as her mother: but I pray you shew vs

Some zamples or reasons why you will not marry?

Delia. Not that I doe condemne a married life,

For tis no doubt a sanctimonious thing:

But for the care and crosse of a wife,

The trouble in this world that children bring,

My vow is in heaven in earth to liue alone,

Husbands howsoeuer good, I will haue none.

Oly. Why then chil will liue Batcheller too,

Che zet not a vig by a wife, if a wife zet not a vig

By me: Come shalls go to dinner? (Lanc:

Pa. To morrow I graue your companies in *Mark*.

To night wee le frolike in *M. Cuius* house,

And to each health, drinke downe full carouse.

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